

**JASIONE.**

**J. MONTANA** L. Gravelly bank, E. Lexington (*Miss H. M. Fay*, Oct. 3–10, 1916); dry soil, cemetery, Sherborn (*Miss M. L. Loomis*, July 31, 1913). Specimens in herb. W. Deane and herb. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.

**SPECULARIA.**

**S. perfoliata** (L.) A. DC. Dry hillsides and ledges, common.

**LOBELIACEAE.****LOBELIA.**

**L. cardinalis** L. Brooks, swamps and pond shores, well distributed throughout, but in danger of extermination.

**L. cardinalis** L., forma **alba** (A. A. Eaton) St. John. See *RHODORA* xxi. 217–218, 1919. Lynn, Melrose, Bedford, Needham, Foxboro.

**L. Dortmanna** L. Ponds and wet shores, frequent throughout.

**L. inflata** L. Open ground in moist or dry soil, common throughout.

[A sheet of *L. Kalmii* in herb. N. E. Botanical Club, collected by E. S. Hoar in 1857 has the double label "Concord, July 8, 1857, or Hopkinton Springs, July 11–14, 1857." Both localities and dates are unlikely for this species.]

**L. SYPHILITICA** L. Introduced in low ground, Cambridge (*M. L. Fernald*, September, 1891). Specimens in herb. Gray and herb. N. E. Botanical Club.

**L. spicata** Lam. Fields and meadows, frequent throughout.

C. H. KNOWLTON      } Committee on  
WALTER DEANE      } Local Flora.

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**THE CORRECT NAME FOR THE SPEARMINT.**

OLIVER A. FARWELL.

IT HAS become quite general for American authors to discard the name *Mentha viridis* L. for *M. spicata* L. when writing of the Spearmint. This application of the name, *M. spicata*, seems to be unwar-

ranted. In the 1st edition of the Sp. Pl. p. 576 (1753) Linnaeus published the complex *M. spicata* as follows:

*spicata*. 2. MENTHA floribus spicatis, foliis oblongis serratis.  
*Hort. ups.* 168.

Mentha sylvestris, longioribus nigroribus & minus incanis foliis. *Bauh. pin.* 227.

*viridis*.  $\alpha$ . Mentha spicis solitariis interruptis, foliis lanceolatis serratis sessilibus. *Hort. cliff.* 306. *Roy. lugdb.* 325. *Dalib. paris.* 177.

Mentha angustifolia spicata. *Bauh. pin.* 227. *Mentha* III. IV. *Dod. pempt.* 95.

Mentha aquatica spicata, foliis oblongis viridibus serratis acuminatis. *Gron. virg.* 167.

*longifolia*.  $\beta$ . Mentha spicis confertis, foliis serratis tomentosis sessilibus. *Hort. cliff.* 306. *Roy. lugdb.* 325. *Dalib. paris.* 177. *Mat. med.* 279. *Gort. gelr.* 341.

Mentha sylvestris, folio longiore. *Bauh. pin.* 227.

Menthastrum spicatum, folio longiore candicante. *Bauh. hist.* 3. p. 321.

*rotundifolia*.  $\gamma$ . Mentha sylvestris, rotundiore folio. *Bauh. pin.* 227. *Habitat in Dania, Germania, Anglia, Gallia.* 24.

In the 2nd Edition of the Species Plantarum pages 804 and 805 (1762) Linnaeus lists the three following species in place of *M. spicata* and its varieties of the 1st Ed.

*sylvestris*. 1. MENTHA spicis oblongis, foliis oblongis tomentosis serratis sessilibus, staminibus corolla longioribus. *Hort. cliff.* 306. *Hort. ups.* 168. *Mat. med.* 279. *Dalib. paris.* 177. *Gort. gelr.* 341. *Huds. angl.* 221 [*M. longifolia*].

Mentha sylvestris, folio longiore. *Bauh. pin.* 227.

Menthastrum spicatum, folio longiore candicante. *Bauh. hist.* 3. p. 321.

*Habitat in Dania, Germania, Anglia, Gallia.* 24.

*Folia albida*.

*viridis*. 2. MENTHA spicis oblongis, foliis lanceolatis nudis serratis sessilibus, staminibus corolla longioribus. *Mentha* spicis solitariis interruptis, foliis lanceolatis serratis sessilibus. *Hort. cliff.* 306. *Roy. lugdb.* 325. *Huds. angl.* 221 [*M. spicata*].

Mentha angustifolia spicata. *Bauh. pin.* 227.

*Mentha Cam. epit.* 477.

*Mentha III, IV. Dod. pempt.* 95.

*Mentha aquatica spicata, foliis oblongis viridibus serratis acuminatis. Gron. virg.* 167.

*Habitat in Germania, Anglia, Gallia.* 24.

*Affinis nimium M. sylvestri, sed minor & glabra.*

*rotundifolia.* 3. *MENTHA* spicis oblongis foliis subrotundis rugosis crenatis sessilibus. *Huds. angl.* 221.

*Mentha sylvestris, rotundiore folio. Bauh. pin.* 227.

*Menthastrum, folio rugoso rotundiore, spontaneum, flore spicato odore gravi. Bauh. hist.* 3. p. 219.

*Habitat in Angliae aquosis.* 24.

A careful analysis and comparison of Linnaeus's treatment of this group of species in the two editions of the *Species Plantarum* will show (1) that the description of *M. sylvestris* is the description of the var. *longifolia*, enlarged and modified; (2) that the description of *M. viridis* is the description of the var. *viridis* enlarged and modified; (3) that *M. sylvestris* is a plant with white tomentose leaves and that *M. viridis* is a plant with green and glabrous leaves; (4) that of the eight citations under *M. sylvestris* six are from the var. *longifolia* and one from *M. spicata* the other being extraneous; (5) that of the seven citations under *M. viridis* 5 are from var. *viridis* (none from *M. spicata*), the others being extraneous. The only conclusion to be deduced from a consideration of the above is that *M. spicata* formed a part of *M. sylvestris* and not at all of *M. viridis*.

*M. spicata* was founded on *Hort. ups.* 168 [sp. no. 2] which is as follows:

2. *MENTHA floribus spicatis, foliis oblongis serratis.*

$\alpha$ . *Mentha spicis confertis, foliis serratis sessilibus.*

*Hort. cliff.* 306.

*Mentha sylvestris, folio longiore. Bauh. pin.* 227.

$\beta$ . *Mentha [etc. which is *M. viridis*].*

*Haec  $\alpha$  foliis est subtus villosis & tomentosis . . . .*

Excluding var.  $\beta$ . which is var. *viridis*, the above citations prove that *M. spicata* founded thereon, is identical with *M. sylvestris* the species with white or tomentose leaves.

The 2nd synonym under *M. spicata* evidently represents a plant with tomentose leaves and therefore can not, together with the binomial, be relegated to *M. viridis*, a plant with glabrous leaves.

Hudson in *Flora Anglicana*, page 221 (1762), elevated the Linnaean varieties to specific rank, retaining the names *longifolia* and *rotundifolia* for these species respectively; but in raising the variety *viridis* to specific rank he discarded that name and transferred to this plant the specific name *spicata*. To summarize:—

I. *M. spicata* L. is a plant with tomentose leaves and therefore the binomial can not be applied to the Spearmint, a plant with glabrous leaves, well represented by the *Mentha angustifolia spicata* Bauhin.

II. *M. spicata* L., *M. longifolia* (L.) Huds. and *M. sylvestris* L. are based upon the same species, well represented by the *Mentha sylvestris, folio longiore* Bauhin, Pin. 227; *M. spicata* L., being the oldest name, is the valid one.

III. The synonymy of the Spearmint is as follows:—

MENTHA VIRIDIS (L.) L.

*Mentha spicata* L. var. *viridis*. L. Sp. Pl. 756, 1753.

*Mentha spicata* Huds. Fl. Angl. 221, 1762; Britt. & Brown Ill. Fl. III. 119, 1898 and 2nd ed. III, 149, 1913; Robins. & Fern. in Gray's New Manual, 710, 1908, not L. 1753.

*Mentha viridis* L. Sp. Pl. 2nd ed., 804, 1762.

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ERUCASTRUM POLLICHII IN WEST VIRGINIA.—The occurrence of *Erucastrum Pollichii* Schimp. & Spenn. in the United States was first recorded by Dr. B. L. Robinson,<sup>1</sup> on the basis of specimens collected along a street-car line at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 18 Oct., 1903, by William Finger, and along a railroad at Sherborn, Massachusetts, 4 Sept., 1910, by Miss M. L. Loomis. In this paper the species was described and its synonymy listed. Soon afterward it was recorded by the writer<sup>2</sup> from the railroad yard at St. Albans, Vermont, where two specimens were collected on 22 Aug., 1911. So far as I am aware no specimens have since been recorded from the eastern States. On 17 Oct., 1919, I collected a single plant, now in

<sup>1</sup> RHODORA 13: 10-12. 1911.

<sup>2</sup> RHODORA 16: 40. 1914.